

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
EDINA HERITAGE PRESERVATION BOARD  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005, AT 7:00 P.M.  
EDINA CITY HALL – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM  
4801 WEST 50<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Gary Nyberg, Bill Crawford, Bob Kojetin,  
Peggy Jennings, and Marie Thorpe

**STAFF PRESENT:** Joyce Repya, Associate Planner

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Robert Vogel, Heritage Preservation Consultant

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**I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Member Kojetin moved for approval of the minutes from the December 14, 2004 meeting. Member Crawford seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

**II. HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN OUTLINE: Vision**

Planner Repya reminded the Board that they had discussed the “Vision” section of the plan at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, continuing the item to this meeting to gain clarification from Consultant Vogel on the following identified benchmark points:

**Benchmark 1.** Regarding the requirement to identify and evaluate all buildings more than 40 years old, Mr. Vogel explained that while today, 1980 seems pretty recent, by 2020 the perspective will be much different and the buildings of the 70’s and 80’s will appear much more interesting.

Mr. Vogel pointed out that the inventory would not be that difficult. There will basically be two categories: 1. Buildings owned by people of notoriety, and 2. Significant architectural styles (which will actually fall within categories easily identified).

Chairman Nyberg asked if there was potential for identifying Southdale Mall as a landmark property. Mr. Vogel explained that there have been too many

changes over the years – the original mall is no longer visible. However, there are objects within the mall – statuary, the clock, etc. that might qualify.

**Benchmark 2.** Regarding the wisdom of identifying specific neighborhoods for surveys, Mr. Vogel pointed out that this point was taken from the Historic Context Study. If the Board viewed this as a problem, there are other ways to identify areas of the city.

**Benchmark 5.** Addressing why archaeological surveys would be carried out for all undeveloped lands within the city limits, Mr. Vogel explained that the city could only require an archaeological survey for private property if a project was to be undertaken on the site. He added that the areas of most concern would be those near water bodies. Board members discussed the types of archaeology that might be required.

**Benchmark 6.** Mr. Vogel pointed out that the words “voluntary and non-regulatory” are at the core of the new Heritage Landmark Ordinance. He observed that this is a very wise approach to preservation because it not only fosters good will with the residents, but it also lowers the cost of preservation. He added that thus far, the voluntary compliance appears to be working quite well.

**Benchmark 7.** Mr. Vogel explained that this point which provides for fully integrating historic preservation with other city planning for parks, recreation, community development, public safety, public works and education can easily be the first benchmark.

Responding to a question as to whether the Board should vote on approval of the “Vision” section of the plan, Mr. Vogel explained that the Board would not be voting on each section. Probably by next fall, once all sections have been discussed, he will present a final document. At that time, the Board will move for approval of the entire plan, which will then be passed on to the Planning Commission and City Council for their comments. A brief discussion ensued. No formal action was taken.

### **III. PRESERVATION MONTH PLANNING: MAY 2005**

Mr. Vogel explained that Preservation Week has been expanded to include the entire month of May. The following events are being considered:

**HERITAGE AWARD** - As in previous years, Edina will be awarding the third annual Heritage Award. Ms. Repya shared the request for nominations that will appear in the spring issue of “About Town” as well as in the Edina Sun Current, Southwest Journal, Edina Chamber publications and Edina’s “About Business” magazine. Board members were pleased with the press coverage. Discussion ensued regarding when the Board would review the nominations. Planner Repya pointed out

that there should be at least a two-week lead-time for the plaques to be engraved. Board members then agreed that a special meeting of the Board should take place on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> to review the applications and vote on a winner.

BAIRD HOUSE TOUR – Planner Repya reminded the Board that Brad and Arlene Forrest, owners of the Baird House had originally invited the Board to tour their home in December. Due to scheduling conflicts, the tour has been postponed until the springtime. Board members agreed that because May was Preservation Month, that would be an excellent time to reschedule. Planner Repya agreed to contact the Forrests to discuss a date in May that would work best for the tour.

#### **IV. PRESERVE AMERICA PROGRAM:**

Consultant Vogel explained that the “Preserve America Program” is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy cultural and natural heritage. Communities may apply for special designation as a Preserve America Community in recognition of their efforts to protect and celebrate their heritage; use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization; and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

Chairman Nyberg asked how Edina would benefit by the designation. Mr. Vogel explained that the benefits of designation would include:

- White House recognition
- A certificate of recognition
- Authorization to use the “Preserve America” logo on signs, flags, banners and promotional materials
- Listing in a Web-based “Preserve America” Community directory
- Inclusion in national and regional press releases
- Official notification of designation to State tourism offices and visitor bureaus
- Enhanced community visibility and pride

Member Kojetin observed that the program sounded very similar to the “Tree City U.S.A” program that the City has participated with in the past. Mr. Vogel agreed, pointing out that it would not really entail any additional work for the Board, however the City would be recognized for the strides made in heritage preservation.

Member Kojetin added that in addition to all the Heritage Preservation Board has done to advance heritage preservation, the Cahill School Program, which provides a one-room school house experience for over 5,000 students from around the state would surely qualify for recognition.

Following a brief discussion, Board members agreed that in light of the fact that the program would be of no cost to the City, and could indeed serve to enhance the

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City's heritage preservation efforts, it would be worth pursuing . Member Kojetin then moved that the City commence the application process to become a "Preserve America" Community. Member Jennings seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried. Consultant Vogel explained that he would complete the application and keep the Board advised of the progress.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**VI. NEXT MEETING DATE:** March 8, 2005

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** 7:40 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joyce Repya**